

Main text: Psalm 73 (Setting the context: Matthew 5:1-12)

Sermon Title: "Having a rendezvous with God"

"This sermon is about **what I know about God to be true and how I respond within the reality of my heart and life situation.**

A psalm of Asaph.

¹ Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.

² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.

³ For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

⁴ They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong. ^[a]

⁵ They are free from the burdens common to man;
they are not plagued by human ills.

⁶ Therefore pride is their necklace;
they clothe themselves with violence.

⁷ From their callous hearts comes iniquity ^[b] ;
the evil conceits of their minds know no limits.

⁸ They scoff, and speak with malice;
in their arrogance they threaten oppression.

⁹ Their mouths lay claim to heaven,
and their tongues take possession of the earth.

- 10 Therefore their people turn to them
and drink up waters in abundance. [c]
- 11 They say, "How can God know?
Does the Most High have knowledge?"
- 12 This is what the wicked are like—
always carefree, they increase in wealth.
- 13 Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure;
in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.
- 14 All day long I have been plagued;
I have been punished every morning.
- 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus,"
I would have betrayed your children.
- 16 When I tried to understand all this,
it was oppressive to me
- 17 till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.
- 18 Surely you place them on slippery ground;
you cast them down to ruin.
- 19 How suddenly are they destroyed,
completely swept away by terrors!
- 20 As a dream when one awakes,
so when you arise, O Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.
- 21 When my heart was grieved
and my spirit embittered,

- ²² I was senseless and ignorant;
I was a brute beast before you.
- ²³ Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.
- ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.
- ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
- ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.
- ²⁷ Those who are far from you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.
- ²⁸ But as for me, it is good to be near God.
I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge;
I will tell of all your deeds.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. What did the psalmist confess that he knew about God?
2. Why was the psalmist upset with God?
3. Why are we sometimes envious of the wicked or unrighteous?
4. What was his resolve? What was his breakthrough?

Digging Deeper: Are you struggling with an issue in your life? Are you concerned that God might not be responsive too you?

The major lesson we must learn:

We can not be deceived by the appearance of the condition of the wicked. We must trust God to bring about justice and order.

Prayer Focus: Dear God....help me to be honest with you in all my ways and willing to trust you with my life.....